



REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. Concerning the Amendment to the Specification

The specification is amended at page 1 to up-date the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications." Specifically, it is now mentioned that the present application is a continuation application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/544,742, filed April 7, 2000, now issued as U.S. patent 6,821,923, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/128,390, filed April 8, 1999.

B. Concerning the Double-Patenting Rejection of Claims 37-54

Claims 37-54 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-21 of U.S. patent No. 6,821,923 for the reasons of record.

Responsive to the Office Action, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted on the present application that would extend beyond the full statutory term of US patent No. 6,821,923 and agreeing that any patent granted on the present application shall be enforceable only during the period that the legal title to said patent shall be the same as the legal title to US patent No. 6,821,923, as specified per the terms of the Terminal Disclaimer.

In view of the above, it is requested that the rejection of Claims 37-54 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn. Applicants believe that all of Claims 37-54 now stand in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is solicited at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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